

OOMBULGURRI COMMUNITY

**424. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of claims that traditional owners who used to reside in the Oombulgurri community are now sleeping in scrubland around the town of Wyndham because they have been advised by the Department of Indigenous Affairs in Oombulgurri that they can no longer live in Oombulgurri?
- (2) Has the minister been informed that people's personal belongings have been removed from their houses in Oombulgurri because they did not make it back there by the allocated time?
- (3) Is it true that DIA has stated that homeless people living around the marshland of Wyndham are not Oombulgurri people?
- (4) Does the minister recall that recommendations resulting from the State Coroner's inquest asked that service delivery to the community be assessed and changes made to make it a safer community for everyone?
- (5) What has the government done to make the community safer?
- (6) Has a liquor licence for Berkley resort been approved; and did the DIA support this application?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Indigenous Affairs has advised that not all people living on the marsh near Wyndham are residents of Oombulgurri. DIA has also not advised any of the residents living at Oombulgurri that they must leave their community. However, DIA and the Department of Housing have responded to requests for relocation by residents by seeking to identify adequate social housing in towns and communities of their choice.
- (2) I have recently received correspondence relating to this allegation and will ask DIA to investigate.
- (3) DIA has advised that some of the people who are living on the marsh are from other places, such as Kalumburu and Katherine. Camping near Wyndham is historic and is predominantly related to people who are visiting for short durations.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) After the coroner's inquiry of April 2008, the state government established a multifunction police facility with staff in August 2008; appointed a child protection worker in August 2008; imposed liquor restrictions in November 2008; appointed a DIA-funded government service coordinator in 2009; and appointed a DIA-funded community development coordinator in 2010. The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee also selected Oombulgurri as a priority location in June 2009 and appointed a chief operating officer in July 2009.
- (6) I have recently received correspondence relating to this matter and will ask DIA to investigate,